

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TUSCALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
HELD WITH
BIG SANDY CHURCH,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 1897.

OFFICERS :

J. H. CURRY, MODERATOR. JNO. T. BEALLE, CLERK.

¶ The next Session will be held with Mt. Paron Church,
Nine miles North-East of Tuscaloosa.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA.:

Warren's Book and Job Printing Office, Tuscaloosa.
1897.



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MINUTES
OF THE
TUSCALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.
SESSION OF 1897.

BIG SANDY, ALA., (near Hull,) Oct. 20, 1897.

The Tuskaloosa Baptist Association, appointed to meet here Sept. 8, but postponed on account of small-pox scare, met in its Sixty-Fifth Annual Session to-day, at 11 o'clock, a. m.

Introductory Sermon, J. W. Loveless. Text: *Acts, 1:8*—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Subject: Spiritual Power.

Letters presented, and vote taken for Moderator, resulting in the re-election of J. H. Curry.

By appointment of Moderator, L. O. Dawson and Robison Brown read the Letters.

List of Churches, with names of Delegates present:

BETHANY—S. E. Hughes.

BETHEL—S. M. Black.

BIBBVILLE—

BIG CREEK—R. N. Barringer.

BIG HURRICANE—L. L. Pumphrey, Thomas Kizziah.

BIG SANDY—B. M. Phifer, M. E. Staggers, S. E. Davis,
H. T. Buras, J. W. Auxford, J. H. Glover.

BLOCTON, 1st—Letter.

BLOCTON, 2d

BLOCTON, 3d

BROOKWOOD—J. L. Boyd.

CARROLL'S CREEK—S. L. Hassell.

COTTONDALE—J. H. Ryland, Robert Hudgins, G. W. Simons.

FLATWOODS—John Patrick, J. H. Anders, Jr.

GILGAL—M. B. Smith, O. Albright, C. M. Thompson, A. W. Thompson
HOPEWELL—Letter.

LITTLE SANDY—David Slayton, J. H. Ryan, M. B. Scott.

Mt. MORIAH—Letter.

Mt. OLIVE—

Mt. PARON—G. R. Fuller, Willie Snyder.

Mt. PLEASANT—

Mt. ZION—W. B. Hutchins.

NORTHPORT—R. S. Cox, E. J. Daffin, Willard Sumner, J. L. Curry,
Jno. T. Bealle, J. H. Curry.

PINEY GROVE—

PLEASANT HILL—

RUHAMA—

SARDIS—J. W. Loveless, J. C. Morrison.

SHULTZ CREEK—G. W. Cook.

SILOAM—J. A. Wagoner, E. L. Kornegay.

TUSCALOOSA—Dr. Joshua H. Foster, L. O. Dawson, J. M. Ward,
Robison Brown, T. P. Knox, J. S. Yerby, J. C. Brown,
N. N. Clements.

VANCE—E. J. Carlisle.

WINDHAM SPRINGS—R. M. Hutto.

WOODSTOCK—J. C. Arnold.

**Big Sandy Church, to the Brethren and Friends
of the Tuskaloosa Association :**

We extend to you a Christian welcome to our Church and to our homes, trusting that our meeting together, on this occasion, may prove a great spiritual blessing—like one enjoyed recently by this Church, but of more general extension—so that all can say that it was good for us to meet and worship together—as becometh Christian Brethren.

Response by L. O. Dawson.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock, p. m. Prayer.

AFTERNOON SESSION—Met pursuant to adjournment.
Prayer.

The following named brethren were received as Corresponding Messengers :

D. W. Whatley, Sipsey Association ; W. M. Tingle, Liberty Association ; W. M. Barton, Union Association ; W. B. Carter, Birmingham Association ; J. A. Howard, Ala. Baptist and Ministerial Education.

Return Correspondence, as follows :

Any brother in good standing in a Church of this Association, is hereby authorized to present Minute, and represent us in any Sister Association.

Moderator appointed the following Special Committees :

Religious Exercises :—Pastor and Deacons of Big Sandy Church, with O. Albright and John Patrick.

Documents :—M. B. Smith, A. W. Thompson, J. M. Ward.

Nominations :—J. R. Moseley, John H. Anders, Willard Sumner.

Finance :—Robison Brown, J. L. Curry, R. M. Hutto.

Report on Sunday Schools was read by R. S. Cox ; Discussed by R. S. Cox, B. M. Phifer, J. C. Arnold, J. W. Loveless, G. R. Fuller, L. O. Dawson, J. A. Howard, J. H. Curry, and adopted as follows :

We are aware that a report, on this very important subject, is incomplete, without comparative statistics, from which could be gathered, at a glance, the number of Churches, the number of Sunday-Schools, the number of pupils in attendance, the number of teachers engaged in the work, the exact location of communities and churches, where such work is yet neglected, the character and amount of helps and literature used in our Schools, &c., &c. Such statistics would, indeed, be encouraging, as they would show a large increase, in the number of Schools now in operation, in improved methods in teaching, in advanced ideas as to the objects of the work, and in its influential, ready co-operation with the churches and pulpits, in educating, civilizing, moralizing and christianizing the various peoples and tongues of our country ; when compared with what was done along this line, only a few years ago. But while we rejoice at the progress which HAS BEEN and is STILL BEING made along this particular line of church-work, we are made sad in contemplation of so many communities yet, without these beacon-lights to guide the wayward foot-steps of our restless youth in the King's highway that leads to truth, virtue, peace and holiness.

Much has been written and much spoken during this year, on this subject, within the bounds of the Tuskaloosa Baptist Association,

not only by our own denominational Sunday-School Conventions, held in different portions of this Association, but inter-denominational-County Conventions, and also, a great State Convention, held at Tuscaloosa, where many of our people were brought face to face with some of our most practical workers along this line, from different sections of the U. S; and summing up the aggregate influence: we would be dull indeed, if all these combined influences did not amount to a great uplift in this particular work.

In all the speeches at these great gatherings, and in all that has been written about them, the central idea has been, to impress hearers and readers with the IMPORTANCE of Sunday-School work. This thought ought to be emphasized and pressed by our secular as well as religious papers, in our reports, from the pulpits, and around the fire-sides of our people, when we plead for measures which have for their object, the uplifting of humanity.

We are of the decided opinion that, notwithstanding all that has been spoken and written on the IMPORTANCE of Sunday-School work, we have not yet reached the time when we can abandon its earnest presentation to our people, nor will that time come until there is a well-organized Sunday-School in every church of every christian order within the bounds of the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association, and until every BAPTIST, ESPECIALLY, is IN the Sunday-School. The dawning of such a day would be hailed with expressions of great joy, from the great Baptist brotherhood: as it would mark the beginning of a new era of prosperity in our Church-work, not hitherto obtained; yet, by a strange inconsistency, many Baptists do nothing to hasten the approach of that prophetic and much prayed for, happy time.

And now, in conclusion, we beg to insist that, every pastor, preacher and Sunday-School worker, who labors in the bounds of this Association, shall have convictions, pressing upon heart and conscience, concerning Sunday-School work, arising from a proper conception of its importance. For THEN, and ONLY then, will we see the beginning of the dawning of that day when the Church will be as "clear as the sun, as fair as the moon, and as terrible as an army with banners" Respectfully submitted,

R. S. COX;

The following report of the Sunday School Convention, of Tuscaloosa Baptist Association, is appended to above report:

Your Secretary feels pardonable pride, we trust, in reporting marked improvement along the line of Sunday School work in the Tuscaloosa Association. These Conventions are gradually growing in interest, as well as attendance. A great many evergreen Sabbath Schools have been established since the organization of this Convention, and but few Churches are without flourishing Sabbath Schools. At several of our Sessions, souls have been converted to Christ. We have every reason to be encouraged, and to continue this noble work for the Glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom upon earth. Humbly submitted,

JAMES C. BROWNE, Sec'y.

By arrangement of Committee on Devotion:—Prayer and praise service to be held to-night, beginning at 7 o'clock, followed by preaching by J. A. Howard.

Adjourned to 9 a. m., to-morrow. Prayer.

(The services, at night, were sweet and delightful.)

SECOND DAY, 9 a. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Thirty minutes prayer and song, conducted by Moderator.

On motion, it was agreed to give one half the collection, to-day, to State Missions, and one-fourth each to Home and Foreign Missions.

Report on Periodicals, read by S. M. Black; discussed by J. A. Howard and W. B. Carter, was adopted as follows:

The periodicals that regularly come to our homes, Sunday-Schools and Churches, demand our thoughtful consideration. They should be the best we can possibly get; their office being to unfold and explain the Scriptures, impart moral and spiritual tone to the life of all who read them, furnish information of what is being now done in the kingdom of Christ, at home and abroad, creating thereby, a zeal according to knowledge in the formation of plans and in the prosecution of Christian work.

The Baptist Sunday-School Board of Nashville, Tenn., is making very excellent helps for the Sunday-School, and can furnish Bibles and Testaments of fine mechanical workmanship, at very low prices.

The "Foreign Mission Journal," published at Richmond, Va.; the "Home Field," Atlanta, Ga.; the "State Mission Quarterly," Montgomery, Ala., are full of information about their respective fields. The "Alabama Baptist" grows better with the years, and should find a place in at least every Baptist home in the State.

Respectfully submitted.

Report on Temperance, read by H. T. Burks, amended, and discussed by L. O. Dawson.

Discussion of Temperance Report discontinued, and Missionary Sermon preached by J. H. Curry. Text: John 20:21—"As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." After sermon, collection taken for mission, of \$11.27.

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON, - SECOND DAY—Met at 2:30. Prayer by John Patrick.

Resumed discussion of Report on Temperance. Speeches by J. R. Fuller, J. S. Yerby, W. B. Carter, J. A. Howard, Robison Brown. Report finally amended, and adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report:—It will be remembered that there is a Law on the Federal Statute books, passed in 1890.—The purpose of said law is to give to the States the right to regulate the liquor traffic within their own bounds, in their own way, and without interference by the Federal Courts, or any other power, and while this law is right, in its main features, it is found there are defects in it, as may be seen by some late decisions of the Supreme Court of the Federal Union.

Now to remedy the defects found in what is known as the "Wilson Liquor Bill," (the bill referred to,) there was introduced in the last (special) Congress, what is known as the "Lattemer Liquor Bill." The object sought in the enactment of the Lattemer bill, is simply to remedy the defects in the "Wilson Liquor Bill." This law, it will be remembered, passed both Houses of Congress with an

overwhelming vote. It reflected what your Committee believe to be the sentiments of the American people, to-wit: that the States can, and ought to regulate the Liquor Traffic within their own bounds and in their own way.

Now the "Lattimer Liquor Bill" passed the U. S. Senate, by unanimous consent, at its last sitting, and would have passed the House but for the fact, that the Committee on Rules called for non-action upon everything, save Tariff reform. Your Committee ask, that your body petition our Representative in Congress, to do all in his power, to enact the "Lattimer Liquor Bill" into Law.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. BARBOUR, Ch'n.

[AMENDMENT.]—"We would put on record again our unqualified condemnation of the saloon business. Our opposition to it deepens with the years. We believe that the business is a sin against God; a disease in the State; a blot upon our civilization; a shame to the churches; a foe to prosperity; a menace to society; an adversary to the cause of Christ; an enemy to the home; and a destroyer of men, in body, mind and soul. There is not a grace that adorns human nature, not a virtue that gives strength to man or to society or to state, not a talent that serves mankind, not an interest that pertains to human welfare, not a cause that looks toward human redemption, but what is blighted, or weakened, or perverted, or hindered by this Satan of modern progress. And there is not a sin or crime or vice or shame known to our courts that by it is not produced or strengthened and widened. There is not another enemy of our people that does not find in this its most faithful ally. Any complicity with this business is unchristian. To engage in it as distiller, wholesale or retail dealer, or to have it in connection with a hotel, to have money invested in it; to loan money for its support; to rent property for its use; to frequent the saloon as a patron; in short, every vital connection with the business we look upon as inconsistent with the Christian profession. We announce it as the sense of this body that no person should be retained in the fellowship of a Baptist church, who is engaged in the manufacture or in any way in complicity with the sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes."

Moderator appointed Standing Committees, to report at next meeting. Each of the Chairmen, with his Committee, is urgently requested to make report, and, if unable to attend the next Session, send it to Clerk:

TEMPERANCE:—L. O. Dawson, C. E. Rice, J. D. Blocker, Sr.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS:—J. S. Yerby, J. R. Moseley, John Patrick.

STATE MISSIONS:—J. M. Ward, L. L. Pumphrey, J. C. Brown.

HOME MISSIONS:—Jno. T. Beale, E. E. Davis, E. J. Daffin.

FOREIGN MISSIONS:—T. W. Palmer, S. E. Hodge, B. M. Phifer.

EDUCATION:—J. H. Foster, E. H. Murfee, B. M. Phifer.

PERIODICALS:—J. W. Loveless, J. R. Fuller, H. T. Burks.

ORPHANAGE:—J. E. Wilson, J. H. Mize, R. E. Hobson.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS:—J. R. Halman, N. N. Brown, S. E. Phifer.

On motion of L. O. Dawson, Committee was appointed to draft resolution on death of Rev. T. M. Barbour.

Motion carried to have business session to-night, at 7:30, instead of preaching. Adjourned. Prayer.

NIGHT SESSION, SECOND DAY—Met at 7:00.

Prayer and Song Service, by J. C. Morrison.

Report of Committee on Documents, read by Clerk, discussed by Robison Brown, Jno. T. Bealle, W. B. Carter, and adopted as follows :

We, the Committee on Documents, on examination of the Letters, find that most of the churches are in a prosperous condition : 12 report increase in membership ; 14 have Sunday Schools, and 3 have prayer-meetings ; 17 contribute to Missions, though some of them very small amounts : 12 not represented ; some of which no doubt have increased in membership, have Sunday School, prayer-meeting, and give to missions. The church in Tuscaloosa, reports their pastor holding a meeting at the A. G. S. depot, which resulted in much good. The church at Brookwood has built a house of worship, 30x60 feet. We are pleased to note, too, that the church at Vance, has built a house of worship. Windham Springs asks the Association for help to ceil and seat their house of worship. We recommend that a collection be taken for them, at this session, and that the churches contribute to this worthy object.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. SMITH,
A. W. THOMPSON.

A collection of \$4.27 was taken for Windham Spring Church, and the Churches named below, agreed to pay the amounts, opposite their names, to same :

Bethel, - -	\$2 50 paid,	Northport, - -	\$4 00
Big Sandy, 5 00	paid,	Sardis, - - -	1 00
Flatwoods, 1 00		Tuscaloosa, - -	5 00
Mount Paron, 1 00			

The following report of Committee on Nominations, was adopted :

We, the Committee on Nominations, report as follows, to-wit :—
1st. We recommend that the time for holding the Session of the "Tuscaloosa Baptist Association," be changed to Wednesday, before the 2nd Sunday in October.

2nd. That the next Session of this body be held with Mt. Paron Church, beginning Wednesday, before the 2nd Sunday in Oct. 1898.

3rd. To preach the Introductory Sermon, Rev. J. H. Curry ; Alternate, Rev. R. S. Cox ; Missionary Sermon, Rev. L. O. Dawson.

4th. Executive Committee :—H. F. Hill, J. Hardin, T. W. Palmer, F. S. Moody, B. H. Williams, S. M. Black, H. T. Buiks.

5th. For Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention :—Rev. J. H. Curry ; Alternates, J. R. Mosely, J. S. Yerby.

6th. Delegates to State Baptist Association :—B. M. Phifer, H. T. Burke, C. E. Rice, Robison Brown, S. M. Black, J. H. Anders, Sr., M. B. Smith, J. D. Blocker.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. MOSELY, Ch'n.

A deeply impressive service was then held in memory of the lamented Rev. T. M. Barbour. Appropriate remarks were made by W. B. Carter, J. S. Yerby, John Patrick, John T. Bealle, J. H. Curry, J. D. Blocker, Sr., Robison Brown, and the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolutions adopted by the Tuscaloosa Baptist Association,

IN MEMORY OF

REV. T. M. BARBOUR.

WHEREAS, It has pleased our gracious Heavenly Father to remove from us our much loved and valued Bro. Rev. T. M. Barbour—

RESOLVED, 1st. That in the death of Bro. Barbour, this Association has lost a faithful and efficient co-woker, the community a kind and generous hearted neighbour, his family a loving and devoted husband and father, and his country a true, tried, honest, patriotic citizen.

As a pastor, he was ever faithful and efficient, preaching the plain and simple truths of the Bible as taught by Jesus, in plain and simple language, and we doubt not that many souls have been brought to Christ through the instrumentality of his preaching, and the crowning glory of all was, that his walk in life was in accord with his professions and teachings.

As a neighbor, he was kind and generous, warm-hearted and magnanimous. Every fountain of his great heart was ever overflowing with the milk of human kindness. He was ever ready to cheerfully respond to the call of those in distress, whether to administer comfort and christian consolation to the sick and dying, or to administer the last sad rites of the burial service.

As a patriot, either in peace or war, he responded promptly to his country's call. In his youth, under the burning suns of Mexico, he stood side by side with the heroes of Scott, in defence of his country's cause. In his mature years, from 1861 to 1865, with Lee, Beauregard and Jackson, he fought gallantly for that cause which is still dear to every true Southern heart. We deeply mourn his loss, and feel that his place among us will never be filled.

RESOLVED, That our heart-felt sympathies go out to his bereaved family, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to them, and also to the county papers and to the Alabama Baptist, for publication.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. YERBY,

J. D. BLOCKER.

Adjourned to 8:30 a. m., to morrow.

SECOND DAY, MORNING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer Service, conducted by W. B. Carter.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE :

Your Committee on Finance, which has to do only with cash sent to the Association, report that it has received—

For State Missions,	\$16 46	Am't carried over,	\$ 87 24
" Home Missions.	21 02	For Associat'n'l Purp'ses,	14 25
" Foreign Missions,	17 39	" Windham Springs,	4 27
" Ministerial Education,	50	" Associational Mis'ns,	2 00
" Orphan's Home,	7 30	" S. School Convention,	70
" Minutes,	24 57	" Indigent Miisters,	1 50
	<hr/> \$87 24	Total,	<hr/> \$109 96

Respectfully submitted, ROBISON BROWN, Ch'n.

Adopted.

Report of Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, as adopted :

We, the Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, report that there are none within the bounds of this Association; but we suggest that aid be given to Brother Williams, who lives near Vance's, as he has spent most of his life in laboring within the bounds of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. MOSELY, Ch'n.

On motion, the following Resolution was adopted :

RESOLVED, That this Association regards Bro. N. H. Williams a very worthy object for help and support, and recommend that each church, of this body, contribute to his support.

A collection was then taken for Bro. Williams, amounting to \$11.82.

Report of Committee on Orphan's Home, as adopted :

We, your Committee, beg leave to submit the following:—As a denomination, we are doing something for some of the objects that are calling upon us for help. We rejoice to note the progress we are making, slow though it be, in the way of missions, education, church extension, etc. Oh, for a greater moving up along all these lines. But, brethren, we have no cause to which we have contributed in the past, that has a better Bible claim upon us than the Orphan's cry. God is looking down upon this Association, and the churches, to witness what we are going to do about those fatherless and motherless ones. Our deepest sympathy ought to be aroused to the fullest extent at the mention of the name of the Orphanage, at Evergreen. We now have everything about the Home very well arranged, having made about two thousand dollars worth of improvements since our last Association, consisting of a dining hall, bath house, etc. The greater part of the cost of these, we think, has been paid, but there is a balance due that should be paid at once. Most of the children attend the Agricultural School, at Evergreen, and all of them attend Church and Sunday School. We are constantly receiving applications from others who have worse than no fathers.

Brethren, let us rally around our Orphanage and the dear child-

dren, with our prayers and money. We owe it to God and humanity, to say nothing of ourselves. We recommend that the roll of Churches be called and pledges taken, for this worthy object, for some stated amount, to be raised in the near future. Allow us to append a few statistics: Since the Home was started, there have been gathered into it 33 boys and 37 girls, and out of it have gone, by apprenticeship, 2 boys; returned to their people, 5 boys and 4 girls; by adoption, 10 boys and 12 girls—leaving in the Home, 16 boys and 21 girls. The children have come from nineteen counties; Tuscaloosa, 3.

B. M. PHIFER, Ch'n.

The following report on Education, discussed by W. B. Carter, was adopted as follows:

It has been truly said that "this is an age of Education!" Never, before, in the history of our country, has there been more interest manifested in the cause of Education. Truly, "the school-master is abroad in the land." The time has come when almost every community is in reach of a school, and there are more sacrifices being made by parents, and more efforts being put forth to educate, than ever before.

Every department of life is calling for Educated men and women. If we expect our sons and daughters to keep abreast with the times and cope with their colleagues and competitors and forge their way to the foremost, in whatever may be their calling, we must Educate them. Never, perhaps, was there greater difficulty in obtaining the necessities of physical life. Yet, while the bread winners call out for that which gives strength to bone, and muscle and sinew, with an equal intensity come up the pleas from parents and children for the food that will invigorate and develop the mind and heart.

Realizing the necessity of keeping abreast with the age of Educational progress, our educational institutions are bestirring themselves to the accomplishment of greater and better work for the denomination. The Baptists of the State feel proud that they have two female colleges that challenge the admiration of all lovers of education, namely: the Judson, located at Marion, Ala., and the A. C. F. College, located at Tuscaloosa, Ala., both of which are sending out yearly, daughters who are adorning society and blessing the world. We also point, with peculiar pride, to the Howard, which is sending out, yearly, a band of consecrated christian workers, who are an honor to the institution, a credit to the denomination, and faithful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. YERBY,
EARLY DAVIS.

Following are the reports on State Missions, Home Missions, and Foreign Missions, which, after discussion by L. O. Dawson, Robison Brown, J. A. Howard, and J. H. Foster, were adopted:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.—Our brethren should bear in mind the fact, which does not seem to be so generally known, that the work of the State Board of Missions includes not only missionary work in the State, but also the interests of the Home Missionary Board at Atlanta, which extends all over the Southern States and Cuba, and the interests of the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, neither of these Boards having any other agent in this State. While

this adds much to the burdens of our State Board of Missions, it should stimulate us to contribute to its support, as we are by that means contributing also to Home and Foreign Missions.

The present policy of the State Board, under the direction of the State Baptist Convention, is to develop the great mass of latent force that we have among the nearly 120,000 Baptists in this State. When we realize that out of this vast number only about ten thousand (10,000) contribute to the cause of missions and the other benevolent enterprises of the denomination, we can form some conception of the wonderful possibilities of our Baptist hosts, in this State, in spreading the Gospel of Christ among the world's teeming millions. For the purpose of developing these great idle forces the State Board of Missions now has at work, in Atlanta, six strong Evangelists, who are distributed over the State, as follows: Burns and Sandlin, in the North, Anderson, in the East, Dickinson, in the West, Preston, in the South-east, and Parker, in the South-west. All of these brethren are doing a mighty work for the Master, in arousing his sleeping followers.

While the indifference of a few pastors, the great numbers of non-contributors, and other hindrances are discouraging, yet, we have much to encourage us. The number of contributors is continually increasing, the great majority of our pastors are faithful and deeply impressed with the importance of the work, and our religious papers and those who write for them, have this matter resting upon their hearts. Let us all seek more information about the work, then we will be more READY to give our help: let us concentrate our forces and energies, and not waste them on secular matters; then we will be more ABLE to give as the Lord requires us. The State Board of Missions is now something like one thousand (\$1,000) dollars in debt, and this is a burden that our churches should not longer allow to remain a hindrance and a stumbling block in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBISON BROWN, Ch'n.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.—Under Home Missions, are included the entire Southland, the Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Cuba. Owing to adverse circumstances, the cause of Missions has been somewhat retarded in certain sections—notably Cuba. The Indians are becoming rapidly evangelized through the agency of this Board. We are also happy to report marked progress in the Convention, of the colored race and foreigners, who have emigrated to the South. Let us give the Home Mission Board all the encouragement possible. A grave responsibility rests upon us, along this line. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," should constantly ring in the ears of all christians. A religious spirit should pervade all our religious bodies. As we grow in grace and knowledge, so will we advance in this grand and glorious cause.—Let everything we do, be for the betterment of mankind and for the upholding of the cause of Christ.

Humbly submitted,

J. C. BROWN, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS—Our Master, just before his departure, said to his followers: " Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." This means a great deal. It is the great work of the churches. The work of the Foreign Board has been fruitful and encouraging. At the last meeting of the Southern Bap-

tist Convention, pledges were made to pay all the debts of the Board, and all of our Baptist hosts rejoiced. Since that time, the Board has been unable to meet current expenses, and has again gotten in debt, all because we have failed to give regularly to this work—the great cause of the Master on earth. The spirit of Missions seems to be going from us. Let all take hold of this work—pastors, deacons, and sunday-school workers—all get into this work and stay there. Our Missionaries have been greatly blessed, this year, and we, brethren, will be greatly blessed, if we will come to the support of this glorious cause, with our means, and prayers, and best efforts for its advancement.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FULLER, Ch'n.

On motion, L. O. Dawson was requested to send his address on Missions, to the "Alabama Baptist," for publication.

Motion carried, that we make an earnest effort to raise one thousand dollars for benevolent objects, and request the churches to strive to raise the amounts set opposite their names, as follows :

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT :

Bethany,.....	\$18	Pleasant Hill..	\$ 5	Mt. Pleasant..	\$10
Bethel	15	Sardis.....	15	Mt. Zion.....	15
Bibbville	5	Big Sandy.....	50	Northport.....	190
Flatwoods.....	12	Blocton, First..	60	Shultz Creek..	15
Gilgal.....	30	Blocton, Second	10	Siloam.....	10
Hopewell.....	10	Blocton, Third..	10	Tuscaloosa.....	400
Little Sandy..	14	Cottondale.....	5	Vance	20
Piney Grove..	5	Mt. Moriah	20	Windh'm Spr'gs	10
Big Creek....	15	Mt. Olive	10	Woodstock	20
Big Hurricane	15	Mt. Paron.....	10	Brookwood.....	10
		Carroll Creek ..	5		

Motion carried, that the Clerk have as many Minutes printed as the Minute fund will pay for, and have Associational fund for his services.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT MEETINGS :

The meeting of the First District of the Tuscaloosa Association, convened with Vance Church, on Friday before 4th Sabbath in July. Introductory Sermon preached by Rev. James Hogan, of Birmingham. The next meeting to be held with Gilgal Church, on Friday before 4th Sabbath in July, 1898—Rev. W. B. Carter, to preach Introductory Sermon. Subjects for discussion : 1st. "How may we live for Christ?" Opened by Bro. B. M. Phifer. 2nd. "How may the grace of God be frustrated?"—Rev. T. B. Whatley. 3rd. "Should a member be retained in the Church, that practices promiscuous dancing?"—James Thompson. T. M. BARBOUR, Moderator, J. T. HAYS. Clerk.

The Second District meeting, was held with Bethany Church, on Friday and Saturday before the 3d Sunday in August, 1897. The next meeting will be held with Northport Church, on Friday before the 3d Sunday in August, 1898—Introductory Sermon, J. T. Hamner;

Alternate, J. T. Bealle. Friday: "What are the duties of members to promote the best interest of the Church?"—S. E. Hodge. "When members are indifferent, why is it that souls are not converted?"—R. S. Cox. Saturday: "What are the duties of the old members toward the young members?"—W. D. Darden. "What is the best way to promote the Mission cause?"—J. H. Anders. "The duty of the Church toward the liquor traffic"—Isaac Martin.

J. T. BEALLE, Moderator.
G. W. SANDERS, Clerk.

Adjourned. All bowed in silent prayer.—Gave parting hand, while singing: "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand."—Prayer, by Dr. J. H. Foster.

Thus was closed a meeting characterized by fraternal feeling and deep spirituality.

J. H. CURRY, Moderator.
JOHN T. BEALLE, Stated Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by their different Churches in our Union, who, producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Tuskaloosa Baptist Association," which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out plans for Missionary purposes in all their bearings—yet, so that the churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

3. This Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our Union, or infringe upon any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our Union to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in the work; and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association, to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued, according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offences and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

4. The churches of our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send four delegates, and any church with a membership exceeding 75, for every additional 25 members, shall be entitled to one additional delegate. Any church failing to represent herself as prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session. Any delegate retiring from the Association without leave, before the body adjourns, shall have his name stricken from the minutes of that session.

6. New churches may be admitted to our union by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator and brethren shall manifest their admission by giving the delegates the right hand in token of christian fellowship.

7. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

8. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A stated Clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually. An assistant Clerk may be elected each year, if necessary.

9. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

10. The Association shall furnish the Minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

11. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration and the voice of the majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

12. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided as soon as practicable.

13. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of Ministers, from sister churches, to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries in the ordaining of Ministers or Deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by the Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all monies thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, by their delegates, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge, the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

15. This Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

17. The Association shall, in all cases, (except to amend the Constitution) be governed by a majority of the members present.

18. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when two-thirds of its members are present.

Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and the New Testament, are the word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ, before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's inability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

Rules of Decorum.

- ART. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.
3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.
4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed.
5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.
6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.
7. Each case taken up by the Association, shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.
8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, in such mode as he may determine.
9. The Moderator shall announce the decision to the body.
10. Any member wishing to retire, must have permission of the Moderator.
11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, unless by permission of the Association, nor more than once until every one wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.
12. The appellation of "Brother," shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.
13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.
14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.
15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other person, provided he call some one to his seat during the time. He shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.
16. Any one violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

Order of Exercises:

- 1—Devotional Exercises.
- 2—Presentation of Letters from the Churches, and the Election of Officers.
- 3—Receive Correspondence.
- 4—Return Correspondence.
- 5—Open the door for the reception of new members.
- 6—Appoint Special Committees, viz : 1. On Preaching ; 2. On Documents ; 3. On Nominations ; 4. On Finance.
- 7—Reports of Standing Committees, viz : 1. On Temperance ; 2. On Sunday Schools ; 3. On State, Home, and Foreign Missions ; 4. On Education ; 5. On Aged and Infirm Ministers ; 6. On Periodicals ; 7. Executive Committee.
- 8—Orphans' Home.
- 9—Miscellaneous Business.
- 10—Appointment of Standing Committees.
- 11—Give parting hand.

Ordained Ministers with their Post-Offices:

J. H. Anders,.....Coker's,
Jno. T. Bealle,.....Northport,
R. H. Blake,.....River Bend,
R. S. Cox,Northport,
J. H. Curry,Northport,
L O. Dawson,Tuscaloosa,
J. H. Foster,.....Tuscaloosa,
J. R. Fuller,.....Northport,
J. R. Halman,.....Coaling,
S. E. Hodge,.....Humphrey,
J. W. Loveless,Griffin,
Isaac Martin,Northport,
W. J. Miller,Vance,
J. F. Price,Brookwood,
M. B. Smith,.....Tuscaloosa,
Joseph Tibbs,Vance,
T. B. Whatley,.....Tuscaloosa,
J. E. Wilson,.....Woodstock.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	COUNTY	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S Post Office.	Membership						S. S. Superintendent's Name and Post Office.	
					Baptism	Letter Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death		
Bethany	R'sc'lloosa	S E Hodge	J H Price	Humphrey	89	1	1	2	1	92	4	S E Hughes, Humphrey
Bethel	"	W G Hubbard	W S Black	Coaling	52		1			51	6	S M Black, Coaling
Bibbville	Bibb	J D Hamner	H C Koster		38					38		
Big Creek	R'sc'lloosa	I N Walker	J M Lawrence	Northport	68	6	1			91	4	E Coleman, Northport
Big Hurriclne	"	W B Carter	J D Blocker, Jr	Mildale	83	6	2	3	2	149	7	B M Phifer, Phifer
Big Sandy	"	J M McCord	J B Davis	Blocton	107	45	3	2		181	8	W W Perry, Blocton
Blocton 1 st	Bibb	"			178	22	13	22	9	39	125	
Blocton 2 nd	"				39	54				54		
Blocton 3 rd	"				50	12	20	21	12	60	3	30
Brookwood	R'sc'lloosa	W G Hubbard	S L Hassell	Northport	22	2	6	1	2	26	4	A J Bell, Northport
Carroll's Crk	"	J W Loveless	J H Ryland	Cottontdale	75		1			75		
Cottontdale	"	Jesse Halman	J H Auders	Northport	37		3			34	3	H W Sloan, Northport
Flatwoods	"	Juo. T Bealle	A W Thompson	Pascualosa	120	6	5	2		119	2	B D Skeilton, Tuscaloosa
Gigal	"	"	D A Brown	Cottontdale	26			1		25	3	A S Verby, Tuscaloosa
Hopewell	"	Juo. T Bealle	J H Ryan	Tuscaloosa	36		1	1	2	33		
Little Sandy	Bibb	James Hogan	B W Clifton	Blocton	58	7	13	1	4	70	8	John Champion, Vance
Mt. Moriah	R'sc'lloosa	J W Lovelless	D E Snyder	Northport	70					80		
Mt. Olive	"	J R Hulman	M. Copeland	Cottontdale	30	35	7	1		46	5	S S Shuttl'rwrth, Olmst'd
Mt. Pleasant	"	J W Loveless	Frank Whatley	Cottondale	105	5	1			99		
Mt. Zion	"	J H Urury	R S Cox	Northport	174	36	16	18	1	206	10	C E Rice, Northport
Northport	"				25					25		
Piney Grove	"	J H Payee	W W Williams	Pearl	30					30		
Pleasant Hill	"	W F Lowry	Pearl River Bend	River Bend	52	1	1	1	4	51		
Sarvis	Bibb	J B Dison	J A Waggoner	Jamesville	74	2	5	21	4	69	6	W F Lowry, River Bend
Shultz Creek	"	W G Hubbard	Robinson Brown	Tuscaloosa	39	3	9			42	5	M W Perry, Scottsville
Sloam	"	L O Dawson	W B Carter	Vance	37	16	41			402	23	T W Palmer, Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa	R'sc'lloosa	R M Vance	W H Clements	Oregonia	48	14	5	4	1	61	3	J S Quarles, Vance
Vance	"	J B Ferguson	J U Ray, Sr.	Woodstock	24	12	5	3		38	4	J M Dollar, Oregonia
Wind'n Sp'g	"				41	7	3	8	1	41	4	J M Rolen, Woodstock
Woodstock	Bibb				2270	221	121	14	148	10	21	20
					2365					113	1247	





